

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 are active in the case. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a process of producing inexpensive, high purity adamantane.

Claim Amendments

The claims have been amended in order to make minor changes or improvements thereto. None of the amendments are believed to have introduced new matter into the case. Entry of the amendments into the record is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection, 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 1 states that trimethylenenorbornane is present in a raffinate that is obtained from a platfinate. Accordingly, the present claims are not directed to a concentrated or 100 % trimethylenenorbornane. Rather, as the examples of the specification show, the purity of the trimethylenenorbornane, after concentration, is about 80 %. Another factor is that in the hydroisomerization process of the present invention, most of the trimethylenenorbornane (99 %) is present in the form of the endo isomer of tetrahydrodicyclopentadiene while the remaining 1 % is present in the form of the exo isomer of tetrahydrodicyclopentadiene. Still further, the endo-tetrahydrodicyclopentadiene solidifies at normal temperatures when the purity of the endo isomer exceeds 80 % (The melting point of the pure endo form is 75° C.) Accordingly, it is virtually impossible to treat a material containing the endo form of a purity that is greater than 80 % in large scale apparatus such as plants and the likes of the piping associated with such apparatus. It is therefore believed clear that the feed to the isomerization of the present process is the trimethylenenorbornane containing raffinate which is obtained from platfinate. A raffinate containing trimethylenenorbornane indeed is intended.

Claim Rejection, 35 USC 103

Claims 1-4 stand rejected based on 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over the abstract of JP 52052888. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to the example in the '888 reference, it seems that the trimethylenenorbornane that is fed to the isomerization process must be of the "exo" form, because 100 % trimethylenenorbornane is acceptable as a feed to the isomerization. On the other hand, it is not an objective of the present invention to employ a feed which substantially comprises the "exo" form. Rather, applicants' newly developed process enables the use of a feed that it contains significant amounts of the endo isomer, which, as seen above, is difficult to deal with in a large scale apparatus such as a plant because of its tendency to convert into a solid form. This is counter to the teachings of the '888 reference. It is therefore believed that the rejection has been overcome and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

It is now believed that the application is in proper condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)



Frederick D. Vastine, Ph.D.
Registration No. 27,013

NFO:FDV